

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY  
REMARKS AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WITH MINISTER DASKALOV  
SOFIA, BULGARIA  
JULY 18, 1994

**Sec. Perry:**

First of all, I'm delighted to be in Bulgaria. This is my first visit here but I hope it will not be my last. We had a very substantial and useful discussion with the Foreign Minister. We were not conducting negotiations though. We were planing together for the future. We talked about the problems in Bosnia today and the United States and Bulgaria have very similar views on the nature of the problems there and what needs to be done to deal with those problems. Namely, we were focused on a peace process there rather than seeking a military solution in Bosnia. We talked in some detail about the Partnership for Peace. The very important role that Bulgaria has already played for example by organizing the "Breeze 94" exercises and we discussed plans for following exercises the Ground exercises involving several different nations. So it was all in all a very useful discussion. May be the Minister would like to comment further on that.

**Min. DASKALOV:**

We are very satisfied with the talks, because we discussed a lot of the issues concerning the Bulgarian involvement in PFP. Also, we discussed the situation on the Balkans, the new peace plan of the contact group and opportunities this plan provides for a peaceful solution of the Bosnian conflict, which concerns not only Bosnia but the whole region.

Also, the efforts the international community is making for preventing the conflict from spreading to the South, and also some bilateral issues, not only military matters but any bilateral ones.

**Question:** How do you see the future of Bulgaria in the context of the conflict?

**Sec. Perry:** Well, Bulgaria, of course is not standing alone on that issue. The fact that both the minister and I understand and agreed on as is the greatest danger in the raising conflict is that it might spread and spill over and that the main objective of the US effort in peace plan is to prevent that from happening. The best way to prevent that from happening is to get a peace process, which stops the conflict there. But the problems in Bosnia, the problems of the conflict in Bosnia extend well beyond Bosnia, affect the whole region, affect its neighbors including Bulgaria but not limited to Bulgaria.

**Question:** Mr. Minister, are you enthusiastic about the US commitment to the European security including this European country.

**Min. Daskalov:** We appreciate very much the commitment of the United States to the security and prosperity and economic transformation of Central and Eastern Europe and we believe also the United States can play a role also in the development of the

1696

Balkans and the integration of the Balkan states in the world economy (inaudible) especially of the view of the conflict next to Bulgaria is to develop infrastructure projects in the Balkans that will help to achieve this purpose. Thank you!

Sec. PERRY: Thank you very much!